

AGENDA
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

May 16, 2023

Indiana Soybean Alliance

8425 Keystone Crossing, Indianapolis, IN 46240

MS Teams

- I. 9:00am: Call to Order**
- II. Approve Minutes of March 2023**
- III. Clean Water Indiana**
 - a. Clean Water Indiana Grants- Geneva Tyler
 - b. Clean Water Indiana Grants Committee report- Brad Dawson
 - c. Clean Water Indiana funding
 - d. IDEA proposal- Kristin Latzke
- IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**
 - a. Chairman's report- Ray Chattin
 - b. Budget- Trevor Laureys
 - c. Director's report- Trevor Laureys
- V. Break**
- VI. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
 - a. Temporary appointments
 - i. Randolph Co- Geneva Tyler
 - ii. Switzerland Co- Laura Fribley
- VII. ICP Reports**
 - a. ISDA
 - i. Partnerships
 - ii. CREP and Water Quality Initiatives
 - iii. Nutrient Stewardship
 - iv. Technical Assistance
 - v. District Support
 - b. IASWCD
 - c. CCSI
 - d. Purdue
 - e. NRCS
 - f. FSA
 - g. IDEA
 - h. Other
- VIII. Public Comment**
- IX. 2023 Meeting Dates**
 - July 18
 - September 19
 - October 24
- X. Adjourn**

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

This agenda is in DRAFT FORM. Open Door Law does not prohibit the public agency from changing or adding to its agenda during the meeting.



Clean Water Indiana Grants Report May 2023

2021, 2022 and 2023 Grants-Conservation practices will be due in Conservation Project Tracking on July 1st. Reports will be due in GMS on July 31st.

2019 Grants-1 extension wrapping up

Grant Co. extension ended December 31st with final report being due January 31st, 2023. Report was submitted. Waiting on verification of final payments and other documentation to landowners to process final claims. Not all funds were spent.

Grants committee met on April 19th. Guidelines for the 2024 CWI competitive grants were discussed. See separate report for additional information.

Legislative Match and Training Dollars

85 counties have been paid out their legislative match dollars and their \$2k match, and the CWI SWCD Capacity payment tracking tool is anticipated to be released by early fall for SWCDs to document their impact.

SUCCESS STORY

Montgomery 2020

Montgomery Co SWCD worked with the county to run payroll and benefits for a Program Coordinator position. Important partners have been SICIM, to help establish a CISMA, and Women 4 the Land, hosting 2 learning circles thus far and will continue to work with them to support events. The Nature Conservancy helped with many aspects of this position including the hiring process. Purdue extension continues to be a valuable partner in helping organize and facilitate events, including promoting events and helping with field days. Also, NRCS and FSA have played a role in training the program coordinator.

Their biggest event of the year is 4th grade field days, and in 2022 the Program Coordinator executed a full calendar of events, including brand-new educational events on backyard conservation and forestry. She created an urban working group called Community Growers of Montgomery County (CGMC) and will be expanding the CISMA. Through the CGMC the Program Coordinator has started urban site visits to help landowners with gardening issues and has established many new partnerships like the Crawfordsville Library, the Crawfordsville Farmers Market, Crawfordsville Main Street, and Sustainable Initiatives of Montgomery County.

CWI Grants Committee Recommendations

Grants committee met virtually April 19, 2023

- Mostly the guidance was kept the same.
- Moved the deadline time to submit to noon versus end of the day.
- Cost share programs for the modification or purchasing of equipment to enhance assets to a landowner is not allowable for a grant request.
- Recycling grants are not eligible.
- All funds must be spent at the end of the grant. Applicants need to make sure all cost share or incentive payments are made to the landowner by the December 31st deadline.

Timeline:

Approve Guidance and release on May 16th SSCB meeting
June 15th- CWI Statewide Info and Networking Session (virtual)
Spring 2023- DSSs host regional staff meetings/networking sessions, questions are answered as they come up
Applications Due September 8th
Ready to score the week of September 11th
Applications ranked and comments due October 2nd
Grants Committee meeting to decide funding- October 16th
Recommendation and approval by SSCB October meeting-October 24th
Partial funded districts application adjustments due on GMS by November 17th



Clean Water Indiana 2024 Competitive Grants Guidance

Executive Summary

The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant Program (IC 14-32-8-5) utilizes the Clean Water Indiana Fund to Support Indiana conservation groups (nonprofits or units or subdivisions of government), in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, in efforts to address the priority concerns of the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) business plan. The SSCB is accepting competitive proposals for targeted projects up to three years in length. The Clean Water Indiana fund is administered by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) under the direction of the SSCB (IC 14-32-8-6).

Application Process

Applications are submitted online through the Indiana Grant Management System (GMS). A request for a GMS account is required. Please visit:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/898f6ffc7f794f80abda15c5b773ba93> to request a GMS account for a CWI grant access.

All applications will be scored and ranked for CWI funding consideration. The SSCB CWI grants committee's funding recommendations will be presented to the full SSCB at their October meeting.

Applicants who are not a local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) must be working with a SWCD as a partner.

Applicants should request the amount of funds that are needed for the project. It is not the goal of the SSCB CWI Grants Committee to fund partial applications. Partially funded applications will be made only in special situations.

No more than three attachments, with a total maximum of six pages, may be uploaded with the application.

Application Deadline: September 8, 2023 by 12p.m. EST

Late applications will not be accepted.

By submitting the application, the lead applicant certifies that each partner has agreed to the terms outlined in the application. The designated signatory of the lead applicant must have prior approval from their boards, managers, etc.

Upon submission of the application, if a pdf copy is needed please request a copy here:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/2a1a2557c61b4e688b028032c37697a4>

Eligible Applicants

- Any SWCD or natural resources related conservation groups in the State of Indiana.
- One application is permitted per project and must be submitted by a lead applicant. Applicants may be lead on only one application in the 2024 grant cycle.
- Lead applicants must be up to date on all awarded CWI grant reporting and 66% of a prior grant must be complete.
- Projects relating to urban practices that will reduce sediment and nutrient are eligible.
- Conservation practices and lab analysis of soil and water that are components of research projects are eligible.
- Equipment purchases for SWCDs and non-SWCDs to own and make available to land owners is allowable.

Funding Restrictions

Proposals must fall within the funding context allowed under the Clean Water Indiana Law (IC 14-32-8).

- The law prohibits funds to be used for food, food related paper products, office equipment or district self-promotional materials (i.e. mugs, t-shirts, pens, etc.)
- CWI grant dollars shall not be utilized to pay directly for employee benefits, such as retirement, health insurance, paid time off, taxes, etc. If CWI competitive grant dollars are being utilized to fund a staff position, once the funds are disbursed to a staff person, they may utilize their stipend/wages as they see fit. This only pertains to CWI competitive grant dollars and not to the \$10,000 CWI statutory match.
- Cannot be used to fund research equipment.
- Cost-sharing is also not allowed on specific practices that an entity is required to install to comply with a state or local rule or ordinance. *Example: CWI funds cannot be used to meet MS4 requirements unless the proposed use of funds goes above and beyond the requirement outlined in the MS4 permit's Storm Water Quality Management Plan.*
- Cost share programs for the modification or purchasing of equipment to enhance assets to a landowner is not allowable for a grant request.
- Recycling grants are not eligible.

Funding Staff

CWI grant dollars shall not be utilized to pay directly for employee benefits, such as retirement, health insurance, paid time off, taxes, etc. If CWI competitive grant dollars are being utilized to fund a staff position, once the funds are disbursed to a staff person, they may utilize their stipend/wages as they see fit. This only pertains to CWI competitive grant dollars and not to the \$10,000 CWI statutory match.

The grant may ask for no more than 10% of the total grant funds for administrative support of the grant.

Proposal Logistics

This grant opportunity is competitive. Proposals can be for any amount that would accomplish the project described. A lead district must be selected to serve as the grantee to receive and administer the grant. **However, grant funds can be shared between districts through cooperative agreements locally.** The grant proposal must document how the grant funds will address at least two of the State priority resource concerns referenced in the State Soil Conservation Board's (SSCB's) Business Plan adopted in 2021. Proposals that outline how CWI funds will leverage additional funding from other sources as well as engage other partners are strongly encouraged. CWI project proposals that will be in tandem with ongoing projects are encouraged. *Example: CWI funds might be used to add technical assistance to help implement sediment and nutrient reduction practices cost-shared through a LARE or 319 project.*

Project Dates

All 2024 Clean Water Indiana Grant projects shall take no longer than three full years to complete. Projects will start in 2024 after a fully executed contract between the lead applicant and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture is signed. Partners do not sign the contracts. All funds must be spent by December 31, 2026.

Partnerships

Each application must state clearly what each partner and participating district will be contributing to the proposed project (i.e. outreach, professional assistance, estimated funds, etc.) Partnering districts and organizations must be identified with a point of contact for the project, their contact information, and an explanation of any anticipated cash or in kind match from the partner.

Conservation Practices

- Conservation practices and structural measures shall follow NRCS Field Office Technical Guide where applicable. New technologies not currently in the technical guide may be implemented if reviewed and concurred in by a technical representative of the Conservation Implementation Teams (CIT) or their designee.
- Pollinator plantings must be free of species that are noxious, invasive, and/or all amaranth. To verify that seed mixes are free of these species, a district MUST request the seed lab card from the distributor.
- For all cost share programs, CWI funds may be used to pay up to a maximum of 75% of the total conservation final practice cost.
- For cover crop cost share programs, the maximum cost share is 75% of the total final cost of the practice, with 25% of the cost being the responsibility of the landowner, and a maximum dollar cap at \$30/ac.
- Any CWI funded applications that have cost share funds for livestock alternative watering systems, MUST fence out the existing watering sources that have a natural resource concern.
- If applying for cost share, please describe the process you will implement to select grant recipients. Priority will be given to projects who demonstrate a strategic process for managing cost share dollars and prioritizing first-time users and new acreage.

Match Requirements

A 50 percent cash and/or in-kind match is required. Match contributions can be federal, state, and/or local sources including such things as landowner costs, staff time, supervisor time, equipment use, purchase, rental, etc. Proposals that request funds for staffing require a 25% cash or in-kind match for the staffing component. *Example: District A submits a \$10,000 for solely a staff position. District A's proposal requires a match of \$2,500. District B submits a \$10,000 proposal that includes \$5,000 for staff and \$5,000 for cost share. Proposal B is required to have \$3,750 match.* The match is applicable only if directly related to the purpose of the proposed project. The grants committee may give preference to cash match rather than in kind during the scoring process. Grant proposals must use the match standards outlined below to develop their project budget. State employee time may not be used as match.

Each grantee must track in-kind/ cash match for all partners and be able to provide documentation.

Match Standards (all figures are per hour of project work)

ICP Staff/SWCD supervisors (including associates) \$25*

Landowner Time: \$25

Professional Services: \$25

Student/Intern/Volunteer: \$10

*ICP match rates were calculated from publicly available data in Gateway and public transparency portals.

Any landowner contribution toward the remaining portion of cost share practices should be counted as cash match.

In general, time spent working on the project should be considered in-kind match; whereas money would be considered cash match.

Leveraging Funds

SWCDs are encouraged to partner with traditional and non-traditional organizations/agencies at the local, state, and federal level to leverage additional funds for their project/initiative. Projects which add to the percent cost-share/incentive rate offered through another program are prohibited. *Example: A project where CWI funds are used for cost share and 319 funds for technical assistance are acceptable. A project where CWI and 319 funds are both used to give producers a larger cost share amount is prohibited.*

CWI Promotion

Any CWI funded projects will be required to have a CWI logo for equipment, handouts, and presentations.

Process of Payments

All funded SWCDs are required to register as a bidder with the State of Indiana. Instructions for registration can be obtained from the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA). Once the proposal is approved by the SSCB, ISDA will issue an electronic contract to the grantee.

Grantees must return their electronically signed contract to ISDA within 30 days of receipt in order to receive their funds. Funds must be utilized in a timely manner. Up to 50 percent of grant funding may be disbursed at the beginning of the grant. All other payments, after the 50% is spent, will be made as reimbursement 45 days in arrears upon receipt of an updated report and claim that is submitted on GMS. *Please note that reimbursement claims may require updated financial reporting, a claim voucher and a financial report showing that requested funds have been paid by the lead entity.*

10% of the total grant funds will be withheld until the final report is completed.

All funds must be spent at the end of the grant. Applicants need to make sure all cost share or incentive payments are made to the landowner by the December 31st deadline.

Reporting Requirements

Financial and project status updates will be required for the duration of the grant and a cumulative final report will be due at the end of the grant. The grant updating form will be provided on GMS. This update must be completed semi-annually (every 6 months) and summarize the outcomes and achievements of the project for the 6 months. The total match and in-kind for each report is cumulative. Tracking of conservation practice implementation (following FOTG standards) must be reported through Conservation Link: conservation project tracking system (CPT) spreadsheet shall be completed by the 1st Friday of the quarter.

The final report of the grant is a cumulative report; 10% of the total grant funds will be withheld in the state account before submitting the final report.

All in-kind must be reported in full for each grant update. In-kind cannot be accounted for at a later report. Any state employee's time may not be counted as in-kind match.

Grantees are expected to meet all deadlines. If reporting deadlines are not met on the due dates, the lead and the partners will not be eligible for CWI grant funding a year after the grant is complete. If special circumstances prevent a grantee from meeting a deadline they may make an in-person request to the SSCB for a waiver.

Reporting Deadlines

Grant updates due in GMS annually: January 31st, July 31st

Conservation Project Tracking in Conservation Link: 1st Friday of January, April, July, and October

Grant Reviews

ISDA routinely visits with its grantees to ensure projects and grants are proceeding as intended and offer guidance and support if needed. Each year, ISDA will strategically select grants to review. These reviews can include open grants and grants that have been completed in the last three years. Upon completion of a review, ISDA will send a summary of results to all districts involved in the project and their board(s).

If found during formal review or routine reporting checks, failure to make progress on the project or report progress as specified in the grant agreement will be noted in a project's file and may jeopardize a district's ability to receive competitive grant funds in future cycles. Also, no grant payment will occur until the grantee corrects any grant failures. Grant Reviews must take place or be scheduled within 90 days of being contacted by ISDA, or lead applicant will be ineligible for future grants for two years. Exceptions may be made (e.g. FMLA).

Modifications

Modifications should not be taken lightly. These grants were awarded based upon merit. Largely changing the program of a grant could be seen as favoring some applicants over others. Other applicants may have submitted similar applications to the proposed modification but were not funded. No modification requests will be accepted following the last SSCB meeting in the final year of the grant term. Please contact the DSS team before submitting a modification.

Questions

For assistance please contact your District Support Specialist (DSS).

<i>North</i>	Sandra Hoffarth	shoffarth@isda.in.gov	(317) 460--0428
<i>Central:</i>	Geneva Tyler	gtyler@isda.in.gov	(317) 518-4036
<i>South:</i>	Laura Fribley	lfribley@isda.in.gov	(812) 595-5641
<i>West:</i>	Nathan Stoelting	nstoelting@isda.in.gov	(812) 320-9873
<i>East:</i>			

Deadlines that SWCDs must meet or have met to be eligible to be lead on an application for CWI 2024

- Election Committee Report: November 1, 2022
- Recommendation for Supervisor Appointment: November 1, 2022
- Nominee for Election: December 1, 2022
- Annual Meeting Held: March 31, 2023
- Election held at Annual Meeting: March 31, 2023
- Annual Financial Report and Audit Form/Page 2 of AFR: March 31, 2023
- Certification of Election of Supervisors: Submitted in timely manner

The items are not specified in district law but are considered essential for district operations and will be considered for CWI 2023. These questions will appear as a self-assessment on the CWI application.

- Updated SharePoint Directories: Within 30 days of changes
- The district has a current business plan.
- District Staff or supervisors participated in the county conservation transects.
- District has applied for a grant other than CWI in the last 3 years and how many.
- All grant deadlines and reporting requirements have been met. (if applicable)



C

CWI: FY 24 & 25

54310: Clean Water Indiana:

Clean Water Indiana	FY 22 & 23
General Fund	\$970,000
Cigarette Tax	\$2,519,014
Total	\$3,489,014
Difference	

<https://www.in.gov/sba/budget-information/budget-data/2023-2025-bud>

CWI: Establishment & Board

- **IC 14-32-8-4 Program established**

Sec. 4. The clean water Indiana program is established. The division of soil department of agriculture by IC 15-11-4-1 shall administer the program su

IC 14-32-2-3 Qualifications of members

Sec. 3. (a) A majority of the seven (7) appointed members of the board supervisors.

(b) In making appointments to the board, the governor may invite and the following:

(1) The Purdue University cooperative extension service.

(2) The Indiana state department of agriculture.

(3) The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

(c) All appointments to the board shall be made without regard to polit

(d) The members appointed to the board under section 2(1) and 2(2) of at least four (4) different geographic regions of Indiana.

CWI: Purpose

- **IC 14-32-8-5 Purpose of program**

- Sec. 5. The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance
 - (1) soil and water conservation districts;
 - (2) land occupiers; and
 - (3) conservation groups;
- to implement conservation practices to reduce nonpoint sources of water technical assistance, training, and cost sharing programs.

CWI: Fund

- **IC 14-32-8-6 Clean water Indiana fund**

- Sec. 6. (a) The clean water Indiana fund is established to carry out the purposes of this article and shall be administered by the division of soil conservation subject to the control of the board of soil conservation.
- (b) The fund consists of:
 - **(1) amounts deposited in the fund under IC 6-7-1-29.3;**
 - **(2) amounts appropriated by the general assembly; and**
 - (3) donations, grants, and money received from any other source.
- (c) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund.
- **(d) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the general fund or any other fund but remains in the fund to be used for the purposes of this article.**

CWI: Expenditures

IC 14-32-8-7 Expenditures from fund

Sec. 7. Money in the fund may be spent in the following ways:

- (1) To increase district technical assistance in local conservation efforts
- (2) To develop an environmental stewardship program to assist land owners with environmental regulations voluntarily.
- (3) To qualify for federal matching funds.
- (4) To provide for the following cost sharing programs:
- (5) To provide matching grants to districts for the following:
- (6) To increase state technical and capacity building assistance to districts providing for the following:
- (7) To make distributions as provided under section 8 of this chapter.
- (8) Implementation of geographic information systems (GIS) or similar

CWI: Matching Funds from Div. So

IC 14-32-8-8 Matching funds from division of soil conservation

Sec. 8. (a) In addition to funds provided to a district under section 7 of t
the division of **soil conservation shall pay to the district one dollar (\$1)**
receives:

(1) from a political subdivision; or

(2) if a district receives no funding from a political subdivision, from an
The board shall consider funds received from a source referred to in subdiv
payments under this subsection.

(b) Except as provided in section 8.2 of this chapter, **the state is not ob**
thousand dollars (\$10,000) under this section.

(c) In order to receive funding under this section each year, a district mu
conservation the amount of money the district received from all sources de
during the one (1) year period beginning January 1 of the previous year...

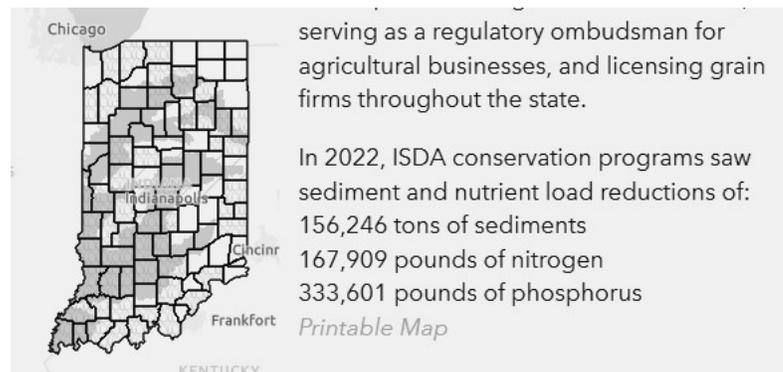
Note: IC 14-32-8-8.2 & IC 14-32-8-8.3 discusses limitations on matching fu
smaller than one county. I have omitted it as that scenario isn't a factor in

CWI: Report

IC 14-32-8-9 Report

Sec. 9. The districts shall coordinate with the division of soil conservation the executive director of the legislative services agency each year. The report under IC 5-14-6 and must describe:

- (1) the expenditures of the clean water Indiana fund; and
- (2) the number, type, status, and effectiveness of conservation efforts for the program.



<https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/>

CWI: Feedback Survey & Listen

ISDA sent a Survey out on behalf of the SSCB to stakeholders and receive written feedback on:

- Open April 14th to May 8th
- Current CWI Uses
- Suggestions for use of additional CWI Dollars
- Upcoming opportunities for matching/leveraging
- 46 responses with full comments provided to the SSCB

ISDA hosted a recorded listening session on May 1st.

- 84 attendees
- Suggestions for use of additional CWI Dollars
- Full recording provided to the SSCB
 - Posted to website

CWI: CREP Investment & Expansion

ISDA has been working USDA-FSA to expand Indiana's CREP Program.

- Current CREP Agreement (est. 2009) has an acreage goal of 26,250 acres, and is available to 11 watersheds.
 - Currently at ~24,000 acres nearing our cap.
- We are moving to expand CREP:
 - Statewide, including 27 more watersheds
 - Increase goal to 100,000 acres
- 10% goes to administrating districts
- Required state investment to keep match to 25%
 - For every \$1 spent we receive \$7 in federal match
- CREP is about \$1,000,000 a year
 - Funded via CWI & Outside Dollars
- ISDA would commit all Resource Specialists to work on CREP increasing

CWI: FY 21 through 24

From SSCB Meeting 9/20/2022:

For reference:

- **\$1,000,000 CWI Competitive Grant Program**
 - Includes \$184,000 in direct capacity distribution
- **\$660,000 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program**
- **\$920,000 District Match (AFR)**
- **\$30,000 Training Reimbursements**
- **\$1,500,000 Staff Salaries**
- **Total Spent: ~\$4,100,000**
 - CWI Budget + ISDA Assistance

<https://www.in.gov/isda/files/2023-CWI-Budget-Overview.pdf>

CWI: Proposed Budget

Item	Amount	Note
Staff	\$1,500,000	Post compensation
Training Reimbursements	\$50,000	>\$40,000 last year
District Match	\$2,760,000	\$30,000 per district
CWI Competitive Grants	\$2,000,000	AFR increases district partial funding, local
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	\$2,000,000	Currently, spend on districts, 25+ new a
CREP Environmental Assessment	\$100,000	Last quote was \$53 statewide expansion
ISDA Partner Agreements	\$50,000	Pathway WQ Coord
Equipment	\$50,000	Computers quoted
Total	~\$8,500,000	



Trevor

Director

Conservation

laure

317-4



INDIANA DISTRICT EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION

May 16, 2023

Dear Indiana State Soil Conservation Board,

In October 2023, the Indiana District Employee Association (IDEA) is hosting its 33rd annual conference in French Lick, Indiana. The South Northwest Region is represented by Boone, Clinton, Fountain, Hamilton, Hendricks, Howard, Marion, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Tipton, and Warren Counties. It is our turn to plan and host this year's conference.

Each year district employees are invited to spend three days networking and in breakout trainings focused on topics that will help them in the performance of their day-to-day tasks. We anticipate over 100 employees to register with all 92 counties being represented. District staff are critical in the "boots on the ground" approach for educating producers and landowners about conservation practices. Our annual conference will be incorporating trainings from various partners throughout the state including, ISDA, SARE, Indiana DNR, and Purdue Extension. Our attendees will learn more about writing an effective business plan, grazing management and federal programs, managing district finances and accounting, hydroponic farming, IDEA Career Development Program, Envirothon, working with Earth Team Volunteers, and working with local producers and landowners regarding small, urban, and backyard farms.

For an employee to participate in this conference, they are required to pay a registration fee to help cover the costs of meals, speakers, and lodging. As you know, many Indiana districts struggle each year to get enough funding from their own county's budget for district operations and staff, let alone trainings. To help keep the cost down for our participants, we are asking for your help by sponsoring the Audio and Visual expenses at \$4,392. Please see the attached budget for the 2023 conference.

Sincerely,

Lori Jordan
District Coordinator, Fountain County SWCD
IDEA Director, SNW Region
765-793-2764 Ext. 3

Kristen Latzke
Conservation Director, Montgomery County SWCD
IDEA Assistant Director, SNW Region
765-362-0405 Ext. 3

Please make check payable to:

IDEA

Please mail payment to:

IDEA Treasurer
c/o Hancock Co SWCD
Attn: Cindy Newkirk
1101 W Main Street, Suite N
Greenfield IN 46140

Indiana District Employee Association 33rd Annual Conference

October 4-6, 2023, French Lick, Indiana

Hosted by the South Northwest Region

Clinton, Fountain, Hamilton, Hendricks, Howard, Marion, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Tipton, and Warren Counties

	Date	Charge	Attendees	Subtotal	SC%	Service Charge	Total	Category	Subtotal
	10/4/2023	\$15.00	100	\$1,500.00		\$200.00	\$200.00	Add on	
	10/4/2023	\$400.00		\$400.00			\$400.00	Add on	\$600.00
	10/5/2023	\$450.00	\$150 per room - SECOND DAY	\$450.00	22%	\$99.00	\$549.00	AV	
Package	10/5/2023	\$450.00	\$150 per room - SECOND DAY	\$450.00	22%	\$99.00	\$549.00	AV	
Package	10/5/2023	\$900.00	\$300 per room - SECOND DAY	\$900.00	22%	\$198.00	\$1,098.00	AV	
	10/4-6/2023	\$450.00	\$150 per day - THREE DAYS	\$450.00	22%	\$99.00	\$549.00	AV	
Package	10/4-6/2023	\$450.00	\$150 per day - THREE DAYS	\$450.00	22%	\$99.00	\$549.00	AV	
Package	10/4-6/2023	\$900.00	\$300 per day - THREE DAYS	\$900.00	22%	\$198.00	\$1,098.00	AV	\$4,392.00
	10/4/2023	\$53.00	100	\$5,300.00	24%	\$1,272.00	\$6,572.00	Food	
	10/5/2023	\$21.00	100	\$2,100.00	24%	\$504.00	\$2,604.00	Food	
	10/5/2023	\$3.00	100	\$300.00	24%	\$72.00	\$372.00	Food	
	10/5/2023	\$60.00	2	\$120.00	24%	\$28.80	\$148.80	Food	
	10/5/2023	\$40.00	2	\$80.00	24%	\$19.20	\$99.20	Food	
	10/5/2023	\$38.00	100	\$3,800.00	24%	\$912.00	\$4,712.00	Food	
e)	10/5/2023	\$3.00	100	\$300.00	24%	\$72.00	\$372.00	Food	
	10/5/2023	\$15.00	100	\$1,500.00	24%	\$360.00	\$1,860.00	Food	
	10/6/2023	\$60.00	2	\$120.00	24%	\$28.80	\$148.80	Food	
	10/6/2023	\$40.00	1	\$40.00	24%	\$9.60	\$49.60	Food	
	10/6/2023	\$21.00	100	\$2,100.00	24%	\$504.00	\$2,604.00	Food	\$19,542.40
	10/4/2023	\$100.00	1	\$100.00	22%	\$22.00	\$122.00	Room	
	10/5/2023	\$100.00	1	\$100.00	22%	\$22.00	\$122.00	Room	
	10/5/2023	\$100.00	1	\$100.00	22%	\$22.00	\$122.00	Room	
	10/5/2023	\$100.00	1	\$100.00	22%	\$22.00	\$122.00	Room	
	10/5/2023	\$100.00	1	\$100.00	22%	\$22.00	\$122.00	Room	
	10/6/2023	\$100.00	1	\$100.00	22%	\$22.00	\$122.00	Room	\$732.00
							\$25,266.40		\$25,266.40
		\$500.00		\$500.00			\$500.00	ESTIMATE	
ment		\$3,500.00	9 speakers	\$3,500.00			\$3,500.00	ESTIMATE	
							\$4,000.00		\$4,000.00
							\$29,266.40		\$29,266.40



State Soil Conservation Board

ISDA – DSC Director’s Report

March 21, 2023

Budget & Staffing

54310: Clean Water Indiana:

Clean Water Indiana	FY 22 & 23	FY 24 & 25
General Fund	\$970,000	\$6,000,000
Cigarette Tax	\$2,519,014	\$2,519,014
Total	\$3,489,014	\$8,519,014
Difference	(\$444,532)	\$5,030,000

See presentation for discussion of CWI Funds

42134: Division of Soil Conservation:

DSC Dedicated Funds	FY 22 & 23	Gov’s Recommendation FY 24 & 25	House Action (FY 24 & 25)
Dedicated Funds	\$1,205,700	\$1,629,234	\$1,629,234
Total	\$1,205,700	\$1,629,234	\$1,629,234
Difference	(\$212,771)	\$423,534	\$423,534

Staffing

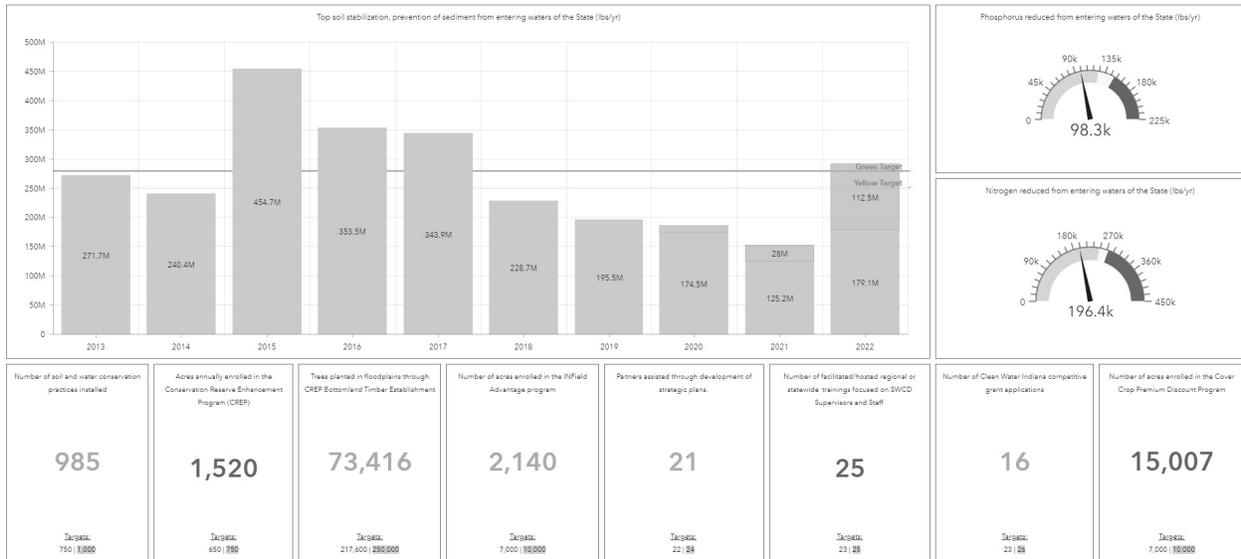
- Kylie Wheeler joins us today as the new East/Southeast District Support Specialist.
- Longtime ISDA employee, former Dir. Division of Soil Conservation, Jordan Seger’s last day was May 12th. We wish Jordan all the best!
- Hiring four Resource Specialists for FY24. Positions will be posted in advance and look to have these individuals in these roles by July 1.

Other items:

2022 Indiana Conservation Partnership Accomplishments Report is live!

- Up 15,000 practices from 2021
- 1.8 million tons of sediment, 3.9 million pounds of nitrogen, and 1.9 million pounds of phosphorus prevented from entering Indiana’s waterways.
- [View the report here](#)

- Division of Soil Conservation Key Performance Indicator & Program Measures**



Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 9:49 AM
To: Harmon, Leah; Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)
Subject: Update: Randolph Temp/Vacant Appt

**** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. ****

RandolphSWCD has submitted a Recommendation for Temporary or Vacant Appointment. Please add it to the next SSCB agenda.

SWCD
Randolph
Appointment Type
Vacant_Appointed_Position
Who is the Candidate Replacing?
William Spencer Howard
Term Expiration
2024
Reason for Vacancy
Resignation
Supervisor Candidate Name
Benjamin Culy
Address
4879 S Indian Trail Road
City, State, ZIP
Farmland, IN 47340
Qualifications
graduated from Hagerstown High School, involved in FFA and 4-yr officer, 4-H, state soil judging competition, attended 4-yr trade school
Occupation
farmer, licensed plumber, own/operate pipe fitting company

Conservation Interests

safe grazing practices, cover crops, forestry, soil conservation, hay ground, pasture management

The candidate has been informed of the dual office holding policy and certifies that they do not hold a public office.

Yes

The candidate is of legal voting age.

Yes

The duties of the office of supervisor has been explained to the candidate.

Yes

Chairman Name

David Jennings

Date of Submission

05/03/2023

Is a letter of resignation attached?

Yes

If you want to unsubscribe from these emails, please use this [form](#).

From: [William Howard](#)
To: [White, Stacy - FPAC-NRCS, IN](#)
Subject: [External Email]Fwd: Letter of Resignation
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 8:02:40 PM

[External Email]

If this message comes from an **unexpected sender** or references a **vague/unexpected topic**;
Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.
Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: Spam.Abuse@usda.gov

Stacy,

Please share this letter with the Board.

This letter serves as my official resignation notice from the Soil and Conservation Board effective today, April 17, 2023.

As you know, I have started a new business which is growing and requiring more of my attention. I no longer feel that I can commit the time needed to serve the Board effectively. I have enjoyed serving on the Board for the past several years. I have met and gotten to know my fellow board members, whom I respect and appreciate. The decision to resign was not easy because of these things. Thank you for the friendship! I appreciate your understanding of this matter.

Sincerely,

Spencer

Spencer Howard
Howard Ag Equipment LLC
2219 East 500 South
Winchester, IN 47394

Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 9:49 AM
To: Harmon, Leah; Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)
Subject: Update: Randolph Temp/Vacant Appt

**** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. ****

RandolphSWCD has submitted a Recommendation for Temporary or Vacant Appointment. Please add it to the next SSCB agenda.

SWCD
Randolph
Appointment Type
Vacant_Appointed_Position
Who is the Candidate Replacing?
William Spencer Howard
Term Expiration
2024
Reason for Vacancy
Resignation
Supervisor Candidate Name
Benjamin Culy
Address
4879 S Indian Trail Road
City, State, ZIP
Farmland, IN 47340
Qualifications
graduated from Hagerstown High School, involved in FFA and 4-yr officer, 4-H, state soil judging competition, attended 4-yr trade school
Occupation
farmer, licensed plumber, own/operate pipe fitting company

Conservation Interests

safe grazing practices, cover crops, forestry, soil conservation, hay ground, pasture management

The candidate has been informed of the dual office holding policy and certifies that they do not hold a public office.

Yes

The candidate is of legal voting age.

Yes

The duties of the office of supervisor has been explained to the candidate.

Yes

Chairman Name

David Jennings

Date of Submission

05/03/2023

Is a letter of resignation attached?

Yes

If you want to unsubscribe from these emails, please use this [form](#).

3/16/2023

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Please accept this letter as my resignation from the SWCD Board effective immediately. I have taken a new position that will not allow me to serve out the rest of my term. I have enjoyed my time on the board with you and the staff and look forward to continuing those relationships in my new job.

Best regards,

Shawna Andrew

Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)

From: Microsoft Power Apps and Power Automate <microsoft@powerapps.com>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 2:29 PM
To: Harmon, Leah; Tyler, Geneva (ISDA)
Subject: Update: Fountain Temp/Vacant Appt

**** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. ****

FountainSWCD has submitted a Recommendation for Temporary or Vacant Appointment. Please add it to the next SSCB agenda.

SWCD
Fountain
Appointment Type
Vacant_Appointed_Position
Who is the Candidate Replacing?
Lee Williams
Term Expiration
1/18/2024
Reason for Vacancy
Death
Supervisor Candidate Name
Todd Hegg
Address
1203 Orchard Drive
City, State, ZIP
Covington, IN 47932
Qualifications
Todd Hegg actively served on the Covington City Council for two terms. He worked with Mayor Brad Crain to bring growth to Covington and was an active in the implementation of the Covington Circle Trail. He grew up in Covington. He and his wife, Debi, raised three child, who went to college and returned to Covington.
Occupation

Territory Manager at Midwest Construction Materials

Conservation Interests

Todd and his wife spend time on her family farm and actively manage a large pond with waterfowl and fish.

The candidate has been informed of the dual office holding policy and certifies that they do not hold a public office.

Yes

The candidate is of legal voting age.

Yes

The duties of the office of supervisor has been explained to the candidate.

Yes

Chairman Name

Bruce Sillery

Date of Submission

05/15/2023

Is a letter of resignation attached?

If you want to unsubscribe from these emails, please use this [form](#).

State Initiatives Information & Updates May 2023

Western Lake Erie Basin RCPP-Year two (Indiana, Ohio, & Michigan)

- Technical Committee met to discuss the ranking sheet for next round of sign ups
- Livestock feasibility meeting on 4/13
- Working on permanent feature demonstration farm. Potential to tie to a current CWI grant.
- On going in-kind tracking for the project and reporting being completed
- Up and coming:
 - Meeting with Partners to give updates
 - Meetings for planning Manure Management workshop with Purdue and UW Madison
 - Communication Team meeting

Kankakee RCPP- Closing up negotiations with USDA (Indiana and Illinois)

- Meeting and collaboration happening to get the project up and going.
- Outreach to underserved communities is part of this funding.
- Working on documents and programs and tracking mechanisms for in-kind and cash match.
- Held a steering committee meetings
- Emails and phone calls contacts to keep in contact with all partners
- Started the process with A&L labs for a the soil sampling program
- Informational meeting for the SWCDs on 4/21
- Attended Kankakee Commission meeting
- Kankakee tech committee-5/8

Grant and Training Coordinator Position

- Monthly WLEB meetings with IN and MI
- Assisted districts with year-end financials
- RCPP WLEB Partner update meetings
- Kankakee Steering Committee meeting
- Assisting a CWI grant with modifications
- Assisted a district with a part time job description and attended their executive session
- Meeting individually with conservation partners to gather feedback to the training portion of the position.
- Met with A&L labs for soil sampling program
- Meetings with NRCS USDA for Kankakee proposal
- Working on pieces to the training portal
- Presented at the MI RCPP partner meeting
- Attended a board meeting and new supervisor training
- Manure management training planning meetings
- Attended a grant readiness training
- Helping plan the Supervisor Summer meeting
- Attended the Kankakee partners and SWCD meetings
- Organizing WLEB Education Tour
- Attended the Kankakee Commission meeting
- Organizing RCPP files and partner in-kind support
- Assisting CWI and DSSs with program management of CWI grants, training reimbursements, and AFR claims
- Assisting a district to prepare for a commissioners meeting to make a funding ask
- Completed CWI 2024 Grant Guidance with grants committee and DSSs
- Continues to fill-in with vacant SE DSS position when needed.

SSCB Meeting - May 16, 2023 - CREP Summary

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Total Reported Completed on SharePoint as of 5/11/2023	235.08	52.20	6,909.37	62.93	868.05	8,195.52	2284.07	3,863.90	22,471.12
Total CREP Enrollment	235.08	53.20	7,266.79	74.14	897.74	8,426.25	2364.63	4,390.67	23,708.50
Total Acres in Extension				1.00	53.70	428.50	121.70	6.00	610.90
								Difference =	1,237.38
									22,550.18

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Total CREP Dollars	\$ 23,508.00	\$ 5,220.00	\$ 737,201.00	\$ 26,050.00	\$ 377,565.00	\$ 3,493,441.00	\$ 2,011,271.50	\$ 3,004,080.00	\$ 9,678,336.50

Federal Match of \$4-\$13 is between \$ 38,713,346.00
 \$ 125,818,374.50

	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Total CREP to CREP Re-enrollment Reported on SharePoint as of 5/11/2023	0.00	0.00	579.88	4.08	43.13	304.48	0.00	226.75	1,158.32

Note: These acres are not re-counted in the total above, however they do receive incentive payments.

SSCB Meeting - May 16, 2023 - CREP Acres (broken down by watershed)

Post-Expansion Acres

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Highland-Pigeon	0.00	0.00	20.86	0.00	1.12	134.60	0.00	0.00	156.58
Lower Wabash	0.00	0.00	11.63	0.00	0.00	663.30	0.00	0.00	674.93
Lower East Fork White	53.50	45.20	168.71	41.60	83.17	751.44	287.16	0.00	1430.78
Lower White	10.70	0.00	198.28	0.00	129.29	2,349.07	286.19	0.00	2,973.53
Middle Wabash-Busseron	2.00	0.00	14.32	0.00	19.70	1,574.91	840.81	91.60	2,543.34
Middle Wabash-Deer	6.60	0.00	119.35	0.00	0.00	73.10	37.17	59.42	295.64
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	4.50	0.00	174.94	6.97	87.12	757.35	505.89	177.70	1,714.47
Tippecanoe River	93.84	0.00	843.65	0.00	3.41	21.40	87.30	2,434.90	3,484.50
Upper East Fork White	0.00	0.00	508.55	0.00	48.30	201.92	0.00	0.00	758.77
Upper Wabash	23.15	7.00	1030.10	2.56	64.19	282.43	117.85	89.10	1616.38
Upper White	36.69	0.00	274.48	0.00	291.05	328.10	0.00	71.18	1001.50
Reported Completed as of 5/11/2023	230.98	52.20	3,364.87	51.13	727.35	7,137.62	2162.37	2,923.90	16,650.42
Enrolled as of 5/11/2023	230.98	53.20	3,722.29	62.34	757.04	7,368.35	2,242.93	3,450.67	17,887.80

Pre-Expansion Acres

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Highland-Pigeon	2.50	0.00	215.00	10.80	16.40	109.20	0.00	0.00	353.90
Tippecanoe River	0.00	0.00	2,916.80	0.00	7.80	20.40	121.70	924.00	3,990.70
Upper White	1.60	0.00	412.70	1.00	116.50	928.30	0.00	16.00	1476.10
Total Acres Prior to Expansion of CREP	4.10	0.00	3,544.50	11.80	140.70	1,057.90	121.70	940.00	5,820.70

Extension Acres

	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	Total Extension Acres
Extension Acres -Tippecanoe			14.80	121.70		136.50
Extension Acres -Upper White	1.00	53.70	413.70		6.00	474.40
Total Extension Acres	1.00	53.70	428.50	121.70	6.00	610.90

CREP to CREP reenrollment

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	Total
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Highland Pigeon	0.0	0.0	31.35	4.08	2.90	26.6	0.0	0.0	64.90
Tippecanoe	0.0	0.0	413.25	0.00	0.00	14.1	0.0	209.55	636.86
Upper White	0.0	0.0	135.28	0.00	40.23	263.9	0.0	17.2	456.56
CREP to CREP Re-enrollment Reported on SharePoint as of 5/11/2023	0.0	0.0	579.88	4.08	43.13	304.48	0.0	226.75	1158.32

SSCB Meeting - May 16, 2023 - CREP Dollars (broken down by watershed)

Post-Expansion Dollars

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Highland-Pigeon	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,183.00	\$ 632.00	\$ 1,272.00	\$ 53,840.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58,927.00
Lower Wabash	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,163.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 265,320.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 266,483.00
Lower East Fork White	\$ 5,350.00	\$ 4,520.00	\$ 16,871.00	\$ 16,640.00	\$ 33,268.00	\$ 300,576.00	\$ 272,802.00	\$ -	\$ 650,027.00
Lower White	\$ 1,070.00	\$ -	\$ 19,828.00	\$ -	\$ 51,716.00	\$ 939,628.00	\$ 195,225.50	\$ -	\$ 1,207,467.50
Middle Wabash-Busseron	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 1,432.00	\$ -	\$ 7,880.00	\$ 626,908.00	\$ 774,569.50	\$ 87,020.00	\$ 1,498,009.50
Middle Wabash-Deer	\$ 660.00	\$ -	\$ 11,935.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,240.00	\$ 21,781.50	\$ 18,073.00	\$ 81,689.50
Middle Wabash-Vermillion	\$ 450.00	\$ -	\$ 11,264.00	\$ 2,788.00	\$ 34,848.00	\$ 302,940.00	\$ 480,595.50	\$ 163,315.00	\$ 996,200.50
Tippecanoe River	\$ 9,384.00	\$ -	\$ 124,126.00	\$ -	\$ 1,364.00	\$ 14,184.00	\$ 75,235.00	\$ 2,223,871.50	\$ 2,448,164.50
Upper East Fork White	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,855.00	\$ -	\$ 19,320.00	\$ 80,768.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,943.00
Upper Wabash	\$ 2,315.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 102,228.00	\$ 1,024.00	\$ 25,676.00	\$ 112,972.00	\$ 111,957.50	\$ 59,799.50	\$ 416,672.00
Upper White	\$ 3,669.00	\$ -	\$ 39,866.00	\$ -	\$ 132,512.00	\$ 236,780.00	\$ -	\$ 74,501.00	\$ 487,328.00
Upper White Extensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00
Reported Paid as of 5/11/2023	\$ 23,098.00	\$ 5,220.00	\$ 382,751.00	\$ 21,084.00	\$ 309,656.00	\$ 2,963,156.00	\$ 1,932,166.50	\$ 2,626,580.00	\$ 8,263,711.50

Pre-Expansion Dollars

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Highland-Pigeon	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 4,316.00	\$ 6,564.00	\$ 43,680.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76,310.00
Tippecanoe River	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 291,680.00	\$ -	\$ 3,120.00	\$ 8,160.00	\$ 48,680.00	\$ 369,600.00	\$ 721,240.00
Tippecanoe River Extensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 30,425.00	\$ -	\$ 34,125.00
Upper White	\$ 160.00	\$ -	\$ 41,270.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 46,600.00	\$ 371,320.00	\$ -	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 466,150.00
Upper White Extensions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 11,625.00	\$ 103,425.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 116,800.00
Total Acres Prior to Expansion of CREP	\$ 410.00	\$ -	\$ 354,450.00	\$ 4,966.00	\$ 67,909.00	\$ 530,285.00	\$ 79,105.00	\$ 377,500.00	\$ 1,414,625.00

CREP to CREP reenrollment

CREP Watershed	Native Grasses	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Filter Strip	Hardwood Tree Planting	Riparian Buffer	Bottomland Timber Establishment	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain)	Practice Total
	CP-2	CP-4D	CP-21	CP-3A	CP-22	CP-31	CP-23	CP-23A	Total
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Highland Pigeon	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,985.00	\$ 632.00	\$ 1,160.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,777.00
Tippecanoe	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,205.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,624.00	\$ -	\$ 83,820.00	\$ 129,649.00
Upper White	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,528.00	\$ -	\$ 16,092.00	\$ 105,540.00	\$ -	\$ 6,880.00	\$ 142,040.00
CREP to CREP reenrollment reported paid as of 5/11/2023	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,718.00	\$ 632.00	\$ 17,252.00	\$ 111,164.00	\$ -	\$ 90,700.00	\$ 275,466.00

Note: These incentive dollars are figured in the total above. This table shows only the breakdown of what is paid for reenrolled CREP to CREP acres.



State Soil Conservation Board

May 16th, 2023

ISDA – CREP & Water Quality Initiatives, Julie Harrold



Program Updates

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- We are working on expanding the CREP program to go statewide.
- We are at approximately 209 acres signed up so far this calendar year.
- Attached to this report is the usual report showing the current status of acres and dollars in CREP, including total completed acres and total enrolled acres since the beginning of the program, and total dollars paid out through the CREP program.
- To date, the state has paid out more than \$10.5 million. For every state dollar that is spent, the federal match is approximately \$4-\$13 for every state dollar, which is currently between \$38.7 million and \$125.8 million of federal dollars depending on the practice.

IN State Nutrient Reduction Strategy (SNRS)

- Component 1 – ISDA is working on the development of a web tool that will display the results of the water quality trends report and to make the results more accessible to conservation partners and the public. This web tool is planned to be available later in 2023. The information within the water quality trends report will be used to draw comparisons of the basins in the state to determine the watersheds with the highest trends in nutrient loads and concentrations.
- Component 2 - Work on the Science Assessment is continuing. A [progress report for Year 2](https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/indiana-state-nutrient-reduction-strategy/indiana-science-assessment/) has been completed and is available on the Science Assessment website.
<https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/indiana-state-nutrient-reduction-strategy/indiana-science-assessment/>



State Soil Conservation Board
May 16, 2023 District Support Specialist (DSS) Report: 3/1/23 to
4/24/23



New DSS Hire

- Welcome to our new DSS, Kylie Wheeler! Kylie started May 15. She will be visiting SWCDs and Partners in upcoming months. Kylie's experience as a Business Manager with Purdue University will be a great asset to our Team and mission. Welcome aboard Kylie!

Statewide or Regional Trainings for SWCD Supervisors and Staff

- **Completed since last report:**
 - March 7: Geneva hosted a Regional NW SWCD staff meeting.
 - March 29: Sandra facilitated a four county new staff training on Records Retention Schedules and destruction forms.
 - April 20: Laura hosted a regional SWCD staff training in the southeast.
 - April 24: Laura hosted a regional SWCD staff training in the southwest.
 - April 24: Sandra hosted a north-northwest staff meeting.
- **Summer Summit for SWCDs:** stay tuned for more information! These evening sessions, hosted by ISDA and IASWCD, will be in-person. Dates and regions are listed below. SWCD Supervisors and Staff can join the meeting that works best for them (i.e. not limited to their own region).
 - NNE – Sept 7
 - NNW – Aug 31
 - SNE – Aug 22
 - SNW – Aug 15
 - SSE – Aug 8 or 29
 - NSE – Aug 8 or 29
 - SSW – Aug 1
 - NSW – Aug 24
- **Want New Supervisor Training?** Please contact your DSS. We are available to conduct the training in-person, virtually, or via a recorded video link.
 - Update as of May 9: between January 1 and March 31, we had approximately 23 new supervisors join the SWCDs. 14 of these Supervisors have participated in New Supervisor Training with a DSS or requested the recorded link.

Clean Water Indiana

- **Competitive grants:**
 - DSSs have been working with current grantees on tasks including project management and reporting. Next Grant Updates are due July 31.
 - DSSs are also fielding questions about the 2024 grants. Groups are already tentatively planning and brainstorming!
 - DSSs joined the Grants Committee as they drafted 2024 guidance and provided input.
- Training Reimbursements requests were due March 15. DSSs assisted with this process.
- Annual Financial Reports were due in GMS by March 31. DSSs assisted Districts with questions on these as well.

Committee Work: DSSs participated in work, discussions, etc. tying to the following statewide or regional initiatives-

- Clean Water Indiana
- State Soil Conservation Board
- Indiana Conservation Partnership Training and Certification Program (ICP TCP), and ICP TCP Pollinator training committee
- Board Certification Program
- Transect
- IDEA SNW Fall Conference planning meeting
- Women4TheLand
- 2024 Annual Conference Planning Committee Session
- Summer Summits

DSS Activities Statewide For This Reporting Period	Total
Input, Assistance & Attendance At SWCD Board Meetings	19
Assistance with SWCD or Partner Strategic Planning	12
Attendance at SWCD Annual Meetings	8
Other Visits with SWCD Supervisors/Staff For Training, Assistance, Guidance, CWI, etc.	43

TECHNICAL REPORT FOR SOUTHEAST REGION

MAY 2023

Clean Water Indiana(CWI) Grants—Currently 12 active CWI grants involving 12 counties. 3 counties are involved in multiple grants. 25 practices designed and awaiting completion and 186 practices completed with funding from these grants. Some grantees do not report projects timely but rather only upon completion so the practices designed and ready for completion may not be current.

EPA 319 Grants-- 9 grants for land treatment involving 13 counties. 3 counties with multiple grants. 27 practices designed, reported in Conservation Link and awaiting completion. Practices funded by these grants are not required to be reported in Conservation Link so the true practice numbers are not available.

Lake and River Enhancement(LARE)—Currently 2 grants.

IN Field Advantage(INFA)--- 2023 will be the last year for this program. Staff has assisted with enrollment of 7 applicants, pulled 14 soil samples and 7 biomass clippings.

CREP—Staff has approximately 39 required status reviews and will most likely complete more.

FARMBILL PROGRAMS—Staff continues to provide technical assistance with federal programs as requested.

STAFFING—Currently one Resource Specialist vacancy and one Resource Specialist on extended leave.

LOCAL PROGRAMS— Staff will assist SWCDs with implementation of their locally funded cost share programs.

TRAINING--- Staff, along with the District Support Specialists, continue to provide technical and Conservation Link entry training to SWCD employees.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Johnson

ISDA, Southeast Resource Specialist Manager

Highlights

Staff Positions

Lois Mann accepted an offer to join the CCSI team as NE Program Manager. She started April 1.

Bryan Overstreet accepted an offer to join the CCSI / Purdue On The Farm teams. He started on Apr 1.

Trainings

- Intro to Soil Health – completed on 2/28 with 50 attendees. Attendance, review of recording or college level soils science class will be required for 3-Day Soil Health
- Fundamentals of Soil Health
 - 04/04, 18, 25 (virtual) 04/11 (in-person) CCSI-SARE Fundamentals of Soil Health Series; 46, 40, 36, and 22 participants respectively
- Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-Day Soil Health) Training
 - Set for June 27-29
 - This training satisfies requirements for “Soil Health and Sustainability Training” for those seeking USDA-NRCS Conservation Planning Certification
 - Registration OPEN

Event Support Guidelines Updated (attached)

- Now include key questions for partners.
- Outreach efforts must have a component for reaching new audiences.

G1. Farmer Engagement and Involvement

1. Innovative and Visionary Farmers

Quarterly Target: 1 ride-a-long, shop visit, or other (Each - A, NPM, SPM)

Listening sessions with Innovative and Visionary Farmers. Use to help identify needed field day and training topics.

- 03/27 Jamie Scott (D)
- 03/27 Cameron Mills (D)
- 03/29 Dan DeSutter (D)
- Carter Morgan phone (NWPM)
- 04/18 Loran Steinlage (D)
- 04/19 Mark Kingma, Jasper County (NA)
- 04/25 David Brandt (D)
- 04/27 Tom Rudolph, Pike County Farmer (SWPM)
- 04/27 Jamie Scott (NA)
- 04/28 Rick Clark (D)

Conservative and Pragmatic Farmers

Meetings and other opportunities for listening sessions to gain perspective on adoption

issues/concerns of soil health practices. Use to help develop outreach topics and tactics.

Quarterly Targets: 1 ride-a-long, shop visit, or other (Each - A, NPM, SPM)

- 04/11 Montgomery County Farmer – first year of no-till (NA)

1. Farmer Influencers

Quarterly Targets: 1 LLP per region adding an influencer to their outreach planning team or board. (Each - NPM, SPM)

- 03/27 Yichao Rui (D)

2. Presentations

Quarterly Targets: Average of 3 soil health presentations or demonstrations. (A)

- 3/10 Solar, Alternative Energy, and Carbon Markets, Veedersburg, “Carbon Markets”; 49 attendees (SA)
- 3/13, 3/15, 3/17 United Soybean Board Mesonet Workshops, Ft. Wayne, Evansville, Davenport, “Decision Support Tools”; 40 total attendees (SA)
- 3/14 Envirothon – Boonville, “Climate Change and Ag”; 76 attendees (SA)
- 3/14 Perry-Spencer Crop Day, St. Meinrad, “Soil Health and More”; 41 attendees (SA)
- 3/21-22 UAV Technology Program, Chrisney, “Modules 2 and 4”; 8 attendees (SA)
- 3/23 Wayne County SWCD Conservation Day, “Soil Health and More”; 54 attendees (SA)
- 3/23 Floyd County Master Naturalist Program, New Albany “Weather and Climate”; 13 attendees (SA)
- 3/25 Indiana Black Loam Conference, Bloomington, “Farmer Resource Panel”; 14 attendees (SA)
- 4/13 – Indiana Extension Educators Association (IEEA) Spring Conference, Nashville, “CCSI Update”; 15 attendees (SA, NA)
- 4/13 – IEEA Spring Conference, Nashville, “Weather and Climate Services for Educators; 7 attendees (SA)
- 04/18 – IvyTech Field Day “Cover Crop Species and Their Uses”; 50 attendees (NA)
- 04/26 UAVs training, Warsaw (NA)
- 4/29 – Floyd County Pollinator Day, New Albany, “Climate Change and Pollinators”; 15 attendees (SA)

G2. Local Level Partnership Support

1. Facilitate and Support Local Level Partnership’s Outreach and Education

Quarterly Target: CCSI as a group materially participate in / support average of 15 LLP Outreach Efforts groups (CCSI Team Goal)

Workshops Completed

- 03/10 Fountain County Carbon Credit Talk
- 03/10 Sullivan County Ag Day; est. 1500 attendees
- 03/16 Washington County / Twin Creek / Lick Branch Watershed Cover Crop Dig, Campbellsburg; 30 attendees
- 03/18 Black Loam Conference, Evansville
- 03/21 ADM re:generations, Clarks Hill; 70 attendees
- 03/22 Howard / Tipton workshop, Tipton; 50 attendees
- 03/24 Dubois County “Getting to the Root of Cover Crops” round table; 23 attendees
- 03/25 Brown County SWCD Annual Meeting, Nashville; 14 attendees

- 03/29 Southern Indiana Grazing Conference, Odon; 180 attendees
- 04/01 “Mud is Fun” Soils Training, Fulton County; 13 attendees
- 4/5 National Extension Climate Initiative Professional Development Webinar w/ Derek Kanauckis @ I See Change, Virtual, 12 participants
- 4/24 North Central Climate Collaborative Webinar w/ Brenda Hoppe @ UMN, Virtual, 140 participants
- 4/27 Illinois/Indiana Climate Webinar w/ Matt Huber @ Purdue, Virtual, 7 participants

Workshops in Progress:

- 05/19 Hoosier Chapter SWCS Summer Meeting (tentative)
- 05/31 Cargill Farmer Meeting, Valparaiso
- 06/15 Cargill Employee Training
- 06/15 Gibson SWCD/Purdue Extension – Event with field buffer/filter strip
- 06/21 Diagnostic Training at Pinney PAC
- 07/18 Tippecanoe County
- Late summer/early fall Lawrence County Soil Health Field Day
- 08/25 Lawrence County Soil Health Field Day
- August Roger Wenning Field Day – Date TBD
- August – Manure Spill Demonstrations, WLEB and Kankakee, Date TBD
- DeKalb County SWCD Workshop – Date TBD

2. Consistent Soil Health Messaging

Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.

Foundational Soil Health Trainings / Awareness, Knowledge and Understanding of Soil Health Completed Trainings

- 04/04, 18, 25 (virtual) 04/11 (in-person) CCSI-SARE Fundamentals of Soil Health Series; 46, 40, 36, and 22 participants respectively

Trainings in Progress:

- 06/27-29 Soil Health and Sustainability for Midwestern Field Staff (3-Day Soil Health)
- Soil Health Signature Program Curriculum Development
- Soil Health PARP Regulatory Topic Development

Professional Development Opportunities

Annual Target: Outlined in fall with training team.

Advanced Soil Health Trainings / Applied Soil Health Knowledge and Skills

Completed Trainings:

-

Trainings in Progress

- 05/18 CCSI Training Team – Fisher Farm, Putnam Co
- 09/5, 7, 19, 21 Grow More – Engaging New Audiences

4. Messaging to/from Local Level Partnerships

Monthly Targets: 2-3 LLP visits. 1 Teleconference / Region (Each - NPM, SPM)

- 03/13 – Purdue on the Farm Operations Leadership Team (SA)

- 03/14 – White County SWCD Annual Meeting (NPM)
- 03/16 – Lake County SWCD Annual Meeting (NPM)
- 03/21 – Jasper County SWCD Annual Meeting (NPM)
- 03/21 – Informal “meet and greet” with Vanessa Coria, The Meridian Group (NPM)
- 03/22 – WLEB Partners (D)
- 03/23 – Kankakee RCPP Steering Committee Meeting (D, NPM)
- 03/24 – Warren County SWCD (NPM)
- 03/25 – Brown Co SWCD Annual Meeting (SWPM)
- 03/27 – SE/SW Regional Teleconference (all)
- 03/27 – NE/NW Regional Teleconference (all)
- 03/28 – NWF Conservation Champions wrap-up (NPM, SA)
- 04/03 Friends of Patoka Board meeting (SWPM)
- 04/04 Informal Jasper SWCD and Newton SWCD at carbon info session
- 04/06 Fulton Co NRCS Planning Meeting for soil health tailgate with farmers (NEPM)
- 04/06 Paducah National Weather Service, Paducah, KY (SA)
- 04/10 Clark County ANR Extension (SEPM)
- 04/11 Pulaski Co SWCD Board Meeting (NEPM)
- 04/11 IASWCD Annual Conference Planning (NWPM)
- 04/12 Daviess SWCD (SWPM)
- 04/13 Whitley Co SWCD (NEPM)
- 04/13 Kosciusko Co SWCD (NEPM)
- 04/13 NRCS NE Area Meeting (NEPM)
- 04/14 Jasper County SWCD and NRCS (NA)
- 04/15 Indiana Black Loam Conference, Gary (NWPM, NA)
- 04/20 SE Regional SWCD staff meeting (SEPM)
- 04/24 SW Regional SWCD staff meeting (SWPM)
- 04/24 Agronomy Extension Meeting (SA, NA)
- 04/27 Lawrence Co SWCD, NRCS, and Extension (SEPM)
- 04/25 Fulton Co SWCD Board Meeting (NEPM)
- 04/25 Byron Seeds Field Day (NA, D)
- 04/28 Pike Co SWCD (SWPM)
- 04/28 Indiana CCA Conference Planning – Soil and Water Track (SA)
- 04/28 Soil Health Nexus (NA)

G3. General CCSI Outreach / Communication

1. Marketing

Quarterly Targets: 3-4 “formal” CCSI Updates (CCSI Team Goal)

Annual Target: 1-2 New External Partners

Ensure LLPs understand CCSI resources available to them; Ensure external partners are aware of CCSI strengths, tools, and opportunities.

- March 1 - Events Newsletter; 2241 delivered; 52% open rate; 4% click rate
- March 15 – Events Newsletter; 2241 delivered; 31% open rate; 5% click rate
- April 1 - Events Newsletter; 2246 delivered; 34% open rate; 2% click rate
- April 15 – Events Newsletter; 2245 delivered; 55% open rate; 5% click rate

2. Soil Health Messaging

Quarterly Targets: 3 Podcasts; 3-6 Blog Posts; 6 Newsletters;

Use social networks and other media tools to deliver soil health messaging and information.

Completed Materials:

- Podcasts
 - Elli Blaine, IASWCD Urban Soil Health Program and Liz Brownlee, Young Farmers Coalition “Small Farms, Beginning Farmers, and Conservation”
 - Jamie Scott, N Central Indiana Farmer, and Bill Johnson, Purdue University – scouting cover crop termination issues.
 - (Recorded) Mark Kingma, NW Indiana Farmer, and Betsy Bower, Ceres Solutions – Impacts of Soil Health Systems on Irrigation Efficiency
 - (Scheduling) Ray McCormick, SW Indiana Farmer, and Phil Neeham, Needham Ag – The importance of combine adjustments and seeding cover crops with a combine
 - (Scheduling) Bryan Overstreet, Hans Schmitz CCSI / Purdue on the Farm and Dan Quinn Purdue University – Purdue on the Farm and Soil Health
- Social Media
 - Twitter (only postings as the platform reorganizes)
 - Facebook: March 3154 reach / April 3154 reach
 - LinkedIn: building presence as replacement for Twitter
- Website: March 568 users, 785 visits / April 531 users, 355 visits

Completed Materials:

- HO-203, Effect of Cold Weather on Horticultural Plants in Indiana, submitted to AgComm for formatting (SA)

Materials in Progress:

- Regulatory Pesticide Considerations for Soil Health Systems, by Hans Schmitz and Matt Pearson, OISC
- Full scale Root Project banners ordered – 7 sets total: one for each Program Manager, one for each Agronomist, one spare. These will be available for partners to borrow for their events.

G4. Research

Quarterly Targets: None

CCSI no longer leads research projects; CCSI provides connectivity between researchers and cooperators; potential research needs.

- Support - Indiana University SARE - Participatory Farmer Monitoring on Nitrate Loss (Yoder)
- Support – Purdue University SARE - Precision Winter Hardy Cover Cropping for Improving Farm Profitability and Environmental Stewardship (Armstrong)
- Support – Purdue University NIFA – Empowering Indiana’s Organic Farmers – Assessing Regional and Farm Scale Soil Health with a Farmer Network (Rui)

OTHER

- Agronomist – attended scouting meeting for a potential DTC training site by Purdue specialist Kyle Daniel
- Reviews for Julie Loehr, SW Program Manager (informal); Jessica Hoehn, SE Program Manager; and Sheila Schroeder, NW Program Manager conducted.
- Content intake at Carbon Sequestration Information Session (NWPM)

- 04/19 – First planting of corn and soybeans at Pinney PAC

Professional Development:

- SE Program Manager 03/28 EPLP Session 2 - Huntington
- Penn State FOCCE Forest Carbon Credit Training completed. (SA)
- IEEA Spring Conference (SA)

Other:

- <https://www.14news.com/2023/04/19/planting-season-underway-tri-state/> (SA)
- <https://www.tristatehomepage.com/news/farmers-to-their-fields-as-planting-season-continues/> (SA)

D = Director

NWPM = Northwest Program Manager

NEPM = Northeast Program Manager

SWPM = Southwest Program Manager

SEPM = Southeast Program Manager

NA = Northern Agronomist

SA = Southern Agronomist

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative Local Level Outreach Support Guidelines

Mission: Improving Soil Health on Indiana Cropland

Support Goal: To help Local Level Partnerships build capacity and sustainability while advancing adoption of soil health practices, especially by farmers not currently in a soil health system.

Outreach efforts must have a component for reaching new audiences.

Key questions for local partners:

- **Who is your target audience? Try to be somewhat specific.**
For example, if the target audience is farmers, what do they 'look' like?
No-tillers? Heavy tillage? Livestock? Commodity crops only? Cover Crop curious?
- **What do you want them to walk away thinking/doing?**
Try to think in terms in moving them down the road of their soil health journey just 1-2 steps.
For example, in an area of heavy tillage + confined livestock production, the answer might be something along the lines of USING their nutrient management plans and THINKING about using cover crops.
- **Why will they want to come? What is it about the content that will interest them?**
For example, in areas of high irrigation use, topics revolving around improving irrigation efficiency might peak their interest. The event could not only have information about using cover crops, but also information on improving infiltration and water availability.
- **What non-ICP / new partners are included in part of the planning process?**
Whether groups like local chapters of Indiana Farm Bureau, co-ops, or banks – involving groups that have trusted relationships with new audiences such as “middle adopters” in the planning process (not just sponsors) can be very helpful in reaching those newer audiences.
- **How will you advertise / make sure your target audience knows about the event?**
Consider using personal text/phone/email invitations and reminders.
- **How will you know the event was impactful? How will you know attendees might try or stick with new practices or have attitudes changed?**

Support may be:

- Monetary support to supplement other local sources and sponsors.
- Booking and funding speakers for specific events
- Logistical assistance
- Promotional assistance

New Audience examples include (but are not limited to):

- Farmers who are not currently using soil health systems or in the beginning phases of adoption
- Underserved communities
- Landowners
- Lenders, Ag Retailers and other Influencers of crop/land management decisions

Qualifying components to reach new audiences may include (but are not limited to):

- Marketing and outreach strategies to reach target demographics
- Speakers and/or content that will resonate with target audience

Working with non-ICP or new partners is critical to reach new farmers. Examples:

- Working with local ag retailers (i.e. cover crop seed suppliers, chemical and fertilizer dealers, independent dealers, etc.) and influencers (i.e. consultants, ag lenders, etc.) in developing content, sponsoring events, and marketing strategies
- Partnering with new(er) individuals and groups, such as local ag groups (local Farm Bureau, Indiana Pork, Indiana Corn/Soy), NGO Projects (like TNC Upper White), Women4theLand, Pheasants Forever, etc.

CCSI and its Oversight Committee advocate for, support, and uphold a policy of anti-discrimination in all our programs and policies. Programs led or supported by CCSI will not discriminate whatsoever on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

Indiana NRCS State Conservationist Report

May 2023 State Soil Conservation Board Meeting

FARM BILL PROGRAMS

Inflation Reduction Act

IRA is part of every conversation at USDA-NRCS. In Indiana, \$6.6 million are being made available to IRA-EQIP and IRA-CSP. IRA funds are authorized only for contracts with one or more conservation practices or activities, identified by NRCS, that directly improve soil carbon, reduce nitrogen losses, or that reduce, capture, avoid, or sequester carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emissions, associated with agricultural production. Indiana will be using the ACT NOW process to obligate these dollars timely so the field staff can continue conservation planning and working on other program priorities.

An IRA state technical committee virtual meeting is scheduled for May 18. During this meeting, we will discuss how Indiana NRCS plans to utilize these funds to assist our farmers.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

NRCS is streamlining its Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) to better help agricultural producers and private landowners conserve wetlands, productive farmlands and at-risk grasslands. NRCS is rolling out several improvements to this important program in response to feedback from producers, landowners and conservation partners. Specifically, NRCS is updating its processes around appraisals, land surveys, as well as certifying eligible entities who help NRCS and producers enroll land into easements.

Post-Inflationary Supplemental Payments (PISPs)

The current rise in inflation throughout the United States can be attributed to the opening of economies as the Coronavirus pandemic declines, the disruption of agricultural output and supply chains globally due to the war in Ukraine, extreme weather changes, and pandemic-related changes in the workforce. Inflation can significantly affect farming operations, from increasing input costs to altering market dynamics.

Previously, NRCS provided additional financial assistance (Coronavirus Agricultural Relief Payments, or CARPs) to participants with contracts containing practices most affected by higher commodity prices. Now, to reduce the impacts of inflation on participants and ensure that contracts can be implemented promptly, NRCS has made additional financial assistance called Post Inflationary Supplemental Payments (PISPs) available to participants with active EQIP contracts that include the scenarios most affected by higher commodity prices.

These assistance payments will be the final inflation-driven additional payments that the agency will provide. Active EQIP contracts from FYs 2015-2022 are eligible and must be fully installed between January 1, 2021, and September 1, 2023, to earn PISPs. No action is needed by program participants to receive PISPs. NRCS will automatically process these payments.

Organic Transition Initiative (OTI)

Indiana is accepting applications for the first round of Organic Transition Initiative (OTI) funding through June 15. Under OTI, NRCS will help producers adopt the new organic management standard, which allows flexibility for producers to get the assistance and education they need such as attending workshops or requesting help from experts or mentors. It supports conservation practices required for organic certification and may provide foregone income reimbursement for

dips in production during the transition period. NRCS will dedicate OTI funding under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Eligible producers include farmers and other producers beginning or in the process of transitioning to organic certification. Higher payment rates and other options are available for underserved producers including socially disadvantaged, beginning, veteran and limited resource farmers.

CONNECTING BIPOC FARMERS/PRODUCERS TO AG SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Indiana NRCS has recently been awarded an agreement titled “Connecting Indiana BIPOC Farmers and Producers to Sustainable Approaches to Ag Services and Programs.” The purpose of this project is to advance NRCS’ equity goals by providing critical outreach and technical assistance to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) farmers and producers throughout the State of Indiana. This project will build networks and increase community support for historically underserved growers in urban and rural settings.

The agreement supports a range of outreach and assistance activities including the 2023 Black Loam events. The remaining dates for the Black Loam conferences are:

- Friday, May 19 (evening) and Saturday, May 20 in Indianapolis.

WOMEN4THELAND AGREEMENT EXTENDED

To help remove barriers and increase female farmers’ participation in USDA programs, NRCS and Hoosier Heartland Resource Conservation and Development Council (HHRC&D) entered into a five-year agreement to expand the Women4theLand (W4L) program. The new agreement was officially signed in March of 2023, in the midst of Women’s History Month, and includes assistance from several Indiana Conservation Partnership members.

W4L has been successfully serving women in Indiana for the last several years participating in over 150 events reaching more than 3,700 women. With this new funding agreement in place, W4L is gearing up for the 2023 season and planning learning circles that focus on several topics which can help private landowners improve their land, such as regenerative agriculture, reducing invasive plants, providing pollinator habitat, developing a conservation plan, improving soil health, protecting wetlands and water quality, improving forestlands, and more. If you would like to learn more about W4L or to see if a learning circle is coming to a town near you, please visit their website at: <https://women4theland.org/>.

INDIANA NRCS STAFFING UPDATES

We are continuing to hire additional staff by filling vacancies and working with adding new positions that will help NRCS accomplish its mission. In addition, Indiana NRCS continues to have several personnel updates:

- David Doctorian - Regional Soil Health Specialist within the National Soil Health Division – Acting Indiana NRCS State Conservationist
- Chris Lee – Former Princeton Conservation Delivery Team Leader – New SE Area Conservationist
- Keith Williams – Former Princeton Planning Team Leader – New NE Area Conservationist
- Jerod Chew - Former District Conservationist – New ASTC for Partnerships
- Roger Kult – Asked to stay in current national detail for an additional 120 days
- Amie Lester – Lebanon Conservation Delivery Team Leader – Acting ASTC for Management and Strategy
- Danielle Waldschmidt – NW Area Conservationist – Serving Detail with National Strategic Planning Team
- Doug Walker – Greencastle Planning Team Leader – Acting NW Area Conservationist
- Dan Hovland returns to SW Area Conservationist
- Kris Vance returns to State Public Affairs Specialist